



Qualifications Required for Registration as Trained Professional Users of Rodenticides include CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Certification

The training requirements accepted by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine for those currently working in the sector are the IPCA Diploma in Pest Management, or the RSPH Level 2 Award in Pest Management or other course deemed equivalent by the Pesticide Registration and Control Divisions (PRCD) of the Department, and the CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Certificate.

The training requirements for new entrants to the industry will from 1st January 2018 be the new LANTRA Pest Management Services - Trained Professional User Award. That course incorporates Wildlife Aware training.

CRRU Ireland in association with IASIS are offering a series of additional Wildlife Aware courses during October and November 2017 to facilitate the completion of PMU registration requirements by persons that wish to register but have not yet obtained the CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Certificate. Places on one of these additional courses can be reserved *via* the CRRU <http://www.crru.ie/courses/> or IASIS <http://www.iasis.ie/PestControl/CoursesEvents.aspx> websites. Persons that complete one of these courses, on application made to IASIS will be accredited as CRRU-IASIS 'Wildlife Aware' Rodent Pest Management Technicians, and further:

- will be listed on the CRUU and IASIS websites as IASIS accredited Wildlife Aware Technicians,
- will be entitled to use the CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware logo, and
- will be provided with CRRU-IASIS Wildlife Aware Van Transfers and Uniform Patches.

For further information on the new arrangements visit the following pages of the PRCD website -

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/changestouseofanticoagulantrodenticides/> and

<http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/registrationofpestmanagement-trainedprofessionalusers/>

Dates for Wildlife Aware CRRU Courses Oct/Nov 2017

20 October Teagasc
Moorepark, Co. Cork

26 October DAFM
Backweston Co. Kildare

2 November Teagasc
Moorepark, Co. Cork

20 November DAFM
Backweston Co. Kildare

27 November Teagasc
Athenry Co. Galway.

28 November Teagasc
Ballyhaise Co. Cavan

REQUIREMENT TO REGISTER AS PEST MANAGEMENT PROFESSIONAL USER BY 31 DECEMBER 2017

The authorization for marketing and use of individual Anticoagulant Rodenticide products is due to be renewed by the end of 2017 under the Biocidal Products Regulations. Newly introduced requirements for those offering rodent pest management services require that Trained Professional Users (PMUs) offering such service register with the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM). From 1st January 2018, persons that are not included on the register of 'trained professional users' (PMU) will no longer be able to offer a service for the control of rodent infestations using trained professional use rodenticide products outdoors, around buildings, in open areas and in sewers .

Also from 1st January 2018 both Trained Professional Users (PMUs) and Professional Users of rodenticides (farmers, game keepers, property caretakers *etc.*) will need to provide proof of competence at point of sale. The required proof for PMUs will be the individual's PMU No as issued by the Pesticide Registration and Control Divisions (PRCD) of the Department, while for farmers it will be their herd number.

All Trained Professional users of rodenticides that provide rodent pest management services must register *via* the relevant page of the PRCD website - <https://publicapps.agriculture.gov.ie/suds/welcome.aspx>.

A Symposium will be held by PRCD on 7th December next during which additional information on the new arrangements will be provided. The Symposium is intended for those involved in the Pest Control Industry, Rodenticide Product Authorisation Holders, Facilities Management Companies, Wholesalers, and Retailers, as well as Food, Agriculture, Pharma, Chemical, IT, Manufacturing, Warehousing, Management Services and other sectors. For further details and to reserve a place go to: - <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/biocides/changestouseofanticoagulantrodenticides/industrysymposiumonrodenticideregulationtraining/>

The provisional programme for the Symposium can be viewed at <http://www.pcs.agriculture.gov.ie/media/pesticides/content/biocides/Provisional%20Programme%20for%20PRCD%20Industry%20Symposium%20on%20Rodenticide%20Regulation%20&%20Training.pdf>



Rodent Pest Control in Rearing and Managing Game Birds

A booklet on rodent pest control in rearing and managing game birds produced by CRRU Irl will shortly be available for download at: - <http://www.crru.ie/downloads/>.

Rats require food, water and shelter to thrive. Many game management activities provide both of these necessities. The most cost-effective way to manage rat infestations is to avoid having them in the first place, or at least to make sure that food and cover are in short supply, thereby keeping rat infestations at a minimum. This should always be the first step in rodent pest management programmes. If measures to modify the habitat are ineffective, or cannot be undertaken at all, it becomes necessary to conduct rat control programmes.

This booklet deals with these two aspects of rodent pest management.

Habitat Management

Usually, the main attraction to rats provided by game management activities is an abundant source of food. Every effort must be made to restrict rat access to this resource and advice is given in this booklet on the management of food hoppers.

Controlling Rat Infestations

Rodent control strategies must always be based upon the concept of “risk hierarchy” whereby the least severe methods, in terms of risk to humans and wildlife, are considered first.

Trapping and use of terriers are the traditional and preferred methods of rat control but all methods are described in the booklet. Rodenticides should only be used as a last resort when the other methods are either ineffective or impracticable. It is emphasised that rodenticides must always be applied in accordance the label instructions for the product selected and in accordance with the *Best Practice Requirements* published by the Campaign for Responsible Rodenticide Use Ireland (CRRU Ireland) (<http://www.crru.ie>).



NEW ACTIVE SUBSTANCE AUTHORISATIONS – THE EFFECT ON TRADITIONAL RODENT PEST CONTROL OPERATIONS – MICHAEL LOUGHLIN

In the article on the new legal requirements for the use of anti-vitamin K rodenticides in the CRRU Irl. April 2017 newsletter, it was reported that permanent baiting is to be restricted to trained professional users. Irish Pest Control service companies have traditionally applied rodenticides as both remedial and preventive methods of rodent control. Rodent pest management services simply involved placing rodenticide in tamper resistant stations outside and inside client’s buildings. These methods are not sustainable and have been shown to have widespread negative effects on the environment.

The risks to wildlife from pesticide exposure can outweigh the benefits of control, especially when non-chemical methods provide the same results. Non-chemical methods may not have been considered in many cases and the traditional permanent placing of rodenticide is what too many client companies have come to expect. The use of bait stations, while providing some level of protection for larger non-target animals such as humans and companion and farm animals, does not prevent rodenticides entering wildlife through various food chains. Predatory mammals and birds have been contaminated throughout the world and Ireland is no exception.

A new approach is now required which will necessitate a review of service delivery and contract pricing models for pest control companies. It is evident that there is now a clear distinction required between routine monitoring methods and the methods employed to control rodent activity. If following documented risk assessment, it is decided that rodenticide use is appropriate, visit schedules must comply with rodenticide label instructions including the CRRU Ireland *Best Practice Requirements for Rodent Control and Safe Use of Rodenticides*. When reviewing annual service contracts, a monitoring schedule should be agreed based on risk, but it will be difficult to predict the required number and extent of site visits for control operations. This is likely to affect pricing and scheduling of service delivery.

Permanent baiting is being restricted to Bromadiolone and Difenacoum products used by Trained Professional Users in situations when there is documented evidence that all other methods have failed and there is a high risk of re-invasion from neighbouring sites. Visits to check these baits will be required at least monthly.

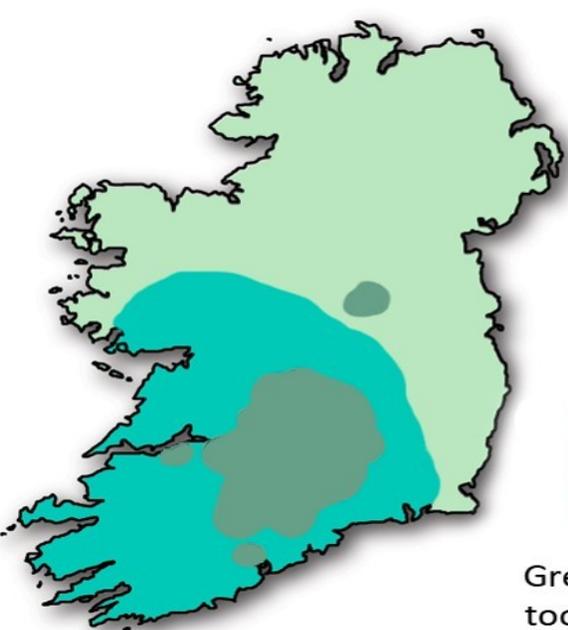
Only products containing Brodifacoum, Flocoumafen and Difethialone may be used in pulsed baiting applications. The use of the pulsed baiting technique is only permitted by Trained Professional Users. Its use serves to reduce both environmental exposure periods, and the amounts of rodenticide used.

It is critically important that Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Principles be applied at all client sites. The European Standard for pest management services (EN 16636) includes the following in its introduction:

“The goal of every pest management activity is the effective and economical reduction or elimination of damage caused by pests. The successful achievement of this goal is dependent on a partnership approach between the service provider and the client. IPM, therefore, focuses on pest prevention and uses pesticides as a last resort and only as needed”.

It has become increasingly common for client’s staff to become involved in monitoring rodent activity, particularly on large sites, where pest awareness training of security, landscaping and warehouse staff is on the increase.

For the future, rodenticide authorisations will recognise the special status of Trained Professional users (pest control technicians) and will make rodenticide products containing a greater range of active substances available to them due to their specific training, knowledge and professional skills. With this status comes a responsibility for the legal and responsible use of these products, in order to maintain their sustainability and to protect wildlife. If this responsibility is taken lightly the future of rodenticides as a rodent pest management tool will be put in jeopardy.



Greater White-toothed Shrew Bank Vole Pygmy Shrew Wood Mouse House Mouse Brown Rat

OUR EVER-CHANGING DISTRIBUTION OF SMALL MAMMALS - J. LUSBY

Our 'native' mammals are those which survived the last Ice Age or arrived here shortly afterwards *via* land bridges from Europe and Britain. Those which have been established since before the 1500s are considered to be 'naturalised'. Of the small mammals which now occur in Ireland, only three are within this category. Radio-carbon dating indicates that the Wood Mouse has been present since the Mesolithic period, and the House Mouse is also considered to be long-established. Our smallest mammal, the Pygmy Shrew was thought to be native until recent fossil and molecular data revealed that it arrived in Ireland within the last few thousand years. All three species were likely to have been accidentally brought to Ireland by early human settlers.

This trend of accidental introduction has continued in more recent times. The Brown Rat had arrived by the 18th Century and replaced the earlier Black Rat, here since early Christian times. The Bank Vole was introduced as an accidental passenger on board a shipment of machinery from Germany to Foynes in Limerick in the 1920s. This, our only species of vole, now occupies approximately one third of the island and continues to expand its range. Bank Voles are an important prey item for many predators and although they are not a target species for rodent control, they can be exposed to rodenticide bait. More recently, the Greater White-toothed Shrew was discovered in Tipperary in 2007. This species is spreading faster than the Bank Vole and is seemingly aided by people, as there are now several 'satellite' populations which appear to be isolated from their main range in Tipperary and Limerick. The Greater White-toothed Shrew is classed as an 'invasive', as there is evidence that they are out-competing and displacing the smaller Pygmy Shrew. They are a commensal species and are often found in or around buildings. A German study confirmed that Greater White-toothed Shrew populations are exposed to rodenticides and indicated that contamination occurs through both primary and secondary poisoning.

Thus the ever-changing situation in relation to the distribution of small mammals in Ireland, has wide ranging implications for the wider ecosystem, which include the risk of exposure of small mammal predators to rodenticides. Research to investigate exposure in small mammals in Ireland would provide a better understanding of the pathways involved and of the risks of contamination of non-target small mammals and the range of wildlife which feed on them.